(b) if so, the length of the road so widened and the points between which it has been widened?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : (a) & (b) Yes. Improvement works in Mount Road have been taken up commencing from Round Tana to T.V.S. premises in the first instance and the carriage way has been widened to 100 feet leaving about 8 to 10 feet for foot path on either side. The length of Mount Road widened is about 5,700 feet from Round Tana to T.V.S. premises.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, what is the amount involved in carrying out this scheme, and who paid the expenditure?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : There are three stages. One is from Round Tana to T.V.S. premises, the second stage is from T.V.S. premises to Gemini, and the third is from Gemini to the City limit.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : What was the reason for widening the road and what was the provocation for it, I would like to know.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact, Sir, that this introduction of the six-lane traffic has really retarded traffic instead of augmenting it?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : No, Sir.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that motorists are compelled to halt at the sign posts irrespective of the fact whether there is traffic in the side roads or not?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : I do not think so, Sir.

Property tax

* 56 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Municipal Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether any instructions have been issued to the Municipalities in the State to enhance the property tax; and

(b) if so, the extent of such enhancement?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE SUFFERING OF THE HANDLOOM WEAVERS AND MASTER WEAVERS DUE TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF YARN AND THE INFLATED PRICES OF THE SAME.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, under 42 of the Council Rules, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the action of the spinning mill owners of the State in changing over to the spinning of 42s and 44s counts to circumvent the price fixation for 40s counts and their making cone and cheese yarn in the place of hanks to circumvent the distribution of the same and the consequent sufferiong of the handloom weavers and master weavers

due to non-availability of yarn and the inflated prices of the same which hit very much of export of handloom fabrics to foreign countries and to other States within India.

The high cost of yarn and also the non-availability of quality yarn hits hard the competitive capacity of the handloom fabrics in foreign countries, which may in due course, if allowed to continue like this, throw thousands of handloom weavers out of employment, besides our losing the foreign markets for the handloom goods, in the export of which only our State leads. I request the Government to do the needful immediately.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, 42s and 44s are odd counts of cotton yarn produced normally in very limited quantities for special purposes. 42s is not released for general consumption but is consumed by the composite mills. 44s count is generally used by the powerlooms on cones. Out of 118 mills of the Southern India Mill Owners' Association, only 11 mills spin 42s and 44s. The quantity spun in these two counts accounts only for 1.4 per cent in the case of 42s and 0.9 per cent in the case of 44s of the total production of the members of the Association. It is understood that the production of 42s increased slightly in recent months and the production of 44s a little more, in both cases at the expense of the output of 40 counts. One reason ascribed for this change-over is the recent increase in the prices of forty-fours (in cones) consumed by the powerlooms. It is true that by this change-over, the spinning mills can circumvent a price regulation which now applies only to the counts up to 40. But this tendency is conditioned by several limiting factors which on the whole will make it not worthwhile for the mills 'to go finer' merely to circumvent price control. By and large, there has been no serious threat to the handloom industry by the change-over of a few mills to 42s and 44s because—

(1) even the increased production of these two counts constitutes only a negligible proportion of the total yarn production of the mills in South India;

(2) the agreement between the mill-owners and the handloom industry reached in the conference recently held at Coimbatore on 30th April 1962 at my instance will ensure adequate supplies of counts 40 and below at regulated prices and of higher counts, 60 and above, at the prevailing ex-mill rates

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) ASSOCIATION OF FIVE MEMBERS WITH THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I move—

"That this House nominates the following five members to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Legislative Assembly for the year 1962–63 :